

City of Milpitas
Unapproved Minutes
Telecommunications Commission
September 20, 2004

I. Call to Order & Roll Call:

Telecommunications Commission Chair Albert Alcorn called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Albert Alcorn, N. Gupta, D. Gupta, G. Ali-Santosa, W. Lam, V. Mathur

I.S. Staff: B. Marion, E. Pasion

Members Absent: R. Gopalara, P. Gupta, A. Ettinger, P. Peterson, I. Munir City Council: A. Gomez

II. Pledge of Allegiance:

The members of the Commission recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Announcements:

Commissioner Alisantosa reported on the Milpitas SAFE training exercise held on September 18.

IV. Approval of the Agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda as submitted.

M/S N. Gupta / D. Gupta Ayes: 6

**V. Approval of the Minutes
August 16, 2004**

Motion to approve the minutes as submitted.

M/S N. Gupta / D. Gupta Ayes: 6

VI. Citizen's Forum

Staff reported for the record two letters of concern regarding the existing cable television service with Comcast cable in the Milpitas community. The first letter from a Mr. Roger Shaw of 1655 Big Bend Drive, Milpitas, asked why Milpitas subscribers to Comcast's high definition cable service are paying for more monthly and receive less HD channels. Milpitas HD subscribers receive fewer channels than those of other south bay communities receiving HD cable channels from Comcast. Staff was able to provide a Comcast representative to offer an explanation.

The second letter was from a Mr. James M. Forsyth requesting the City to consider another cable provider. Noting that Comcast has not provided Milpitas fair share of updated cable and Internet services to its subscribers due to insufficient bandwidth over its network.

VII. Continued-New Business:

1. Verizon Wireless 1325 E. Calaveras Blvd.

Kim Duncan with the City's Planning Department introduced the item from Verizon Wireless requesting to install a 91-foot tall monopole at the Milpitas Sports Center complex with six

telecommunications antennas and ground support equipment. The monopole would replace an existing light standard.

Chair Alcorn noted that the questionnaire had minor revisions based on city staff technical review. Question 7 needed clarification from Verizon staff regarding center of radiation. Verizon staff noted that both numbers 77.0 and 82.5 should both be added to the question. Chair Alcorn requested that an updated questionnaire be added for the record.

Commissioner Alisantosa asked if Verizon plans to add more antennas to improve the signal coverage in the area of Evans Road and Landess Avenue. Verizon noted it would not improve the coverage area for the Evans Road/Landess Avenue. Verizon hopes to improve the signal coverage in the future.

Motion to forward the project to the planning commission for final approval.

M/S D. Gupta/N. Gupta Ayes: 6

2. Sprint PCS 777 Bellew (Crown Plaza).

Kim Duncan with the City's Planning Department introduced the item from Sprint PCS requesting to install three panel antennas on the roof top area of the Crown Plaza Hotel. The three panel antennas would be disguised in its location on the rooftop of the Crown Plaza and would not be readily seen.

Chair Alcorn noted that staff had reviewed the project and met with Sprint staff directly. Concern was brought forth regarding Sprint's antennas and its proximity to the City's emergency radio communications antennas. City staff and Sprint representatives were able to workout the concerns regarding the antennas placement and concluded that the panel antennas would have no impact on the City's emergency radio communications equipment. Chair Alcorn asked that the questionnaire be modified stating that the applicant provide notification placement of radiation hazard.

Chair Alcorn added that Sprint add proper notification of radiation hazard and contact information at the building's fire control point.

Commissioner Alisantosa asked to have a copy of the license as part of the application record.

Motion to approve on the condition of the copy of the radio license.

M/S N. Gupta/D. Gupta Ayes: 6

3. Subcommittee Report Cable Policy.

Commissioner Alisantosa and Commissioner D. Gupta reported that a revised final copy was provided to the Commission for review of draft version number 7.

Commissioner D. Gupta added one more modification to the document stating that Form 1 would be changed from Quarter Terms. Commissioner Lam noted it was a cut and paste error.

Commissioner Mathur asked how long would the approval of the request be valid. Commissioner Lam added that the approval would be good for three months. The requestor would have three months to have an item published for the government cable channel for placement in the cable message rotation.

Commissioner D. Gupta added that most of the items have been covered and is ready for review by the City Council.

Staff recommended to the Commission that document be given a final review by the City Attorney's Office for additional comments as well language regarding indemnification. At which point the Commission would have the opportunity to have make needed revisions to the document prior to the being presented to the City Council.

Motion to approve and send to the City Attorney's Office for final review and return to Commission for any additional revisions for consideration.

M/S V. Mathur/G. Alisantosa Ayes: 6

4. Status Report of Comcast Cable Franchise

Bill Marion, Director of Information Services, reported that the City met with Comcast during the month of August to review the cable television franchise.

Staff provided information to Comcast regarding gross revenue under the general accepting accounting principals. The City is waiting for a response. Language was also provided to the Comcast regarding standard policy regarding undergrounding of cable service utilities. Comcast is also review information provided by the City regarding the cable television P.E.G. access channels request. Staff would be meeting again in October.

Several Commissioners noted that their homes were also visited by Comcast to conduct proper grounding work to its cable lines. Staff reported that it hopes to meet its April 2005 deadline conclude that cable franchise review.

Staff also added that the P.E.G. access channel is still under consideration. The plan would be to provide an Educational access channel during the school business hours and then operate as a Public access channel during after hours and possibly weekends.

Chair Alcorn requested to have the review the current layout of the school district cable network to better understand how it could be integrated to the Comcast cable for future cable access and how it is connected to the Comcast Santa Clara cable headend.

Commissioner D. Gupta noted that further review and discussion would be needed coordinate the future use of an Education and Public access channels in Milpitas.

Motion to note receipt and file

M/S N. Gupta/D. Gupta Ayes: 6

5. August '04 Month Report.

Staff reported that a public access project to access city documents was currently under development. Staff hopes to have a demonstration at the Commission's October meeting.

Information Services staff is currently working on converting all the police department vehicles from it current CDPD 19.2 kbps to 1XRT service with service speeds of 140 kbps.

Mobile computers are also being installed in all fire apparatus vehicles and should be completed by the end of the year.

Staff noted that it would migrate the services over to the Tropos 802.11b network in the near future.

Commissioner D. Gupta asked if the service would provide improved coverage to the eastern foothills area. Staff added that coverage would be improved from a data perspective accessing the City's data network. Staff also reported that testing the new computer aided dispatch center for police and fire dispatching.

Chair Alcorn commented on the report of use of rechargeable batteries. Staff added that it is considering using rechargeable batteries for the wireless keyboards for the city hall conference rooms due to the heavy usage.

Motion to note receipt and file.

M/S N. Gupta/D. Gupta Ayes: 6

Round table discussion.

Chair Alcorn requested staff to place on next month's agenda discussion of Bill Dale radio-broadband interference concerns.

Staff distributed a photo copy of a San Jose Mercury News article establishing Milpitas Telecommunications Commission and the first technical commission established advise on the Information Superhighway and Pacific Bell's future offerings of video-on-demand.

Commissioner Alisantosa reported on the SAFE training activities during September and the various disaster scenarios provided by the Milpitas fire department.

VIII. Adjournment of Meeting

Chair Alcorn adjourned the meeting to Monday, October 18, 2004.

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